Appl. No. 10/609,135 Amdt. dated August 28, 2006 Reply to Office Action of February 28, 2006

## Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

## **Listing of Claims:**

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- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A method of cleaning and preparing produce, the
  method comprising:

  transporting the produce on a conveyor;

  rotating the produce substantially continuously during the transporting; and
  applying steam <u>directly</u> to an outer surface of the produce on the conveyor.

  Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the
- 1 3. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1 further comprising washing the produce on the conveyor.

steam is applied at a pressure in a range of 20-100 psi.

- 1 4. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 3 wherein the washing is 2 done prior to applying steam.
- 1 5. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 4 wherein the steam is 2 applied at a pressure in a range of 20-90 psi.
- 1 6. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 3 wherein the washing is 2 done after applying steam.
- 1 7. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 6 wherein the steam is 2 applied at a pressure in a range of 20-100 psi.
  - 8-13. (Canceled)